

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending and under consideration. By means of the present amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 8 have been amended to better point out and distinctly claim the claimed subject matter, and claim 21 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are at issue.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action of October 20, 2006, claims 5 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants submit that the rejection has been cured by means of the present amendment, in which the objected subject matter has been deleted.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamoto (WO 00/334030, relying on US 6824920 as English translation) in view of Fujita (WO 01/22519, relying on US 6884546 as English translation). The rejection was based, inter alia, upon Iwamoto disclosing an electrolyte that contains bis(1,2-benzene diolate (2-)-O,O') lithium borate (See the Office Action of October 20, 2006, page 3, fifth paragraph). Although Applicants disagree, the limitation that the electrolytes comprise boron has been deleted from the claims in order to advance prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection has been cured by means of the present amendment.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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